

## WASHINGTON STATE SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Meeting Summary – July 16, 2002

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The meeting was **called to order** by **Bob Schille** at 9:35, at Ecology headquarters in Lacey. Following amendment, the May 21 SWAC Meeting Summary was approved.

9:38 Project and Process Updates: **Cullen Stephenson**

- The Minimum Functional Standards Rule (proposed Chapter 173-350 WAC) hearing will be conducted August 6 at several sites simultaneously, via teleconference; the public comment period ends September 4, 2002. Given the scope of the revisions, Bob requested a Table of Contents; Cullen promised to provide one to each SWAC member. *SWAC asked to hear an overview of the types of comments offered about the rule and wants to weigh-in on them (i.e., prioritize them) during the September SWAC meeting.*
- The State Department of Agriculture reserves the use of **clopyralid** for farmers, but not its commercial use in urban areas. *The methods/protocols used to measure concentrations of clopyralid are considered proprietary, and therefore not subject to quality controls or standardized methods of sampling. Seattle-King County conducted some random purchases of compost and sent dual samples to separate laboratories for sampling . . . Can “organic” farms operators obtain uncontaminated compost/fertilizer anywhere?*

9:57 Statewide Solid Waste Management Plan: **Cheryl Smith**

- Issue Paper #10 purported to identify economic concepts related to “. . . turning waste into marketable commodities . . .” and [removing] barriers to recycling a greater percentage of reclaimable materials, enacting tax incentives for resource conservation, and pricing according to the true costs of goods and services. In the future, we will have to deal more effectively with external costs –both upstream and downstream—of consumer practices, so that life-cycle assessment reveals the value of recycling and waste prevention. Product pricing should correlate with environmental costs. Issue Paper #10 (revised and edited) is ready for distribution to the Work Group; meanwhile, the core group has compiled information, resources allowing the core group to begin drafting sections of the Statewide Plan.
- *This [Issue Paper #10] is good work; it ties into several other processes related to product stewardship. The models also should reflect the energy expense of collecting recycling at the curbside. Something is wrong when, after ten years, our recycling program has fallen in value . . . Recycling programs ride on the back of avoided costs; when garbage collection costs fall, we find it harder to collect and process recyclables. How do we restore value into the product? We need to help businesses and residents see their discards as a resource. We need Ecology to set a strategic goal and advocate [recycling] methods that make sense. Should government mandate it? Does industry lead the way? Or do we wait for public demand to drive it? Chasing people down and punishing them for wasteful behavior shows our own failure. We need [planned actions we can use to] “hit the road” now.*

10:38 SWAC Rules of Procedure: **Bob Schille**

SWAC needed to update the Rules of Procedure adopted in 1966. Apart from minor language changes, members proposed amendments to ARTICLE 2 – ROLE, ARTICLE 4 – MEMBERSHIP, ARTICLE 7 – OFFICERS, and ARTICLE 8 – DUTIES OF OFFICERS, bringing them into closer alignment with both the enabling statute (RCW 70.95.040) and current practices. The amended Rules will be presented for the SWAC’s vote during the September meeting.

11:06 State Budget – Implications for Solid Waste: **Cullen Stephenson**

The SW&FA Program will absorb most of the budget shortfall by leaving existing vacancies unfilled. Negotiations over \$300,000 in the State Toxics Control Account continue.

11:08 Our Governor's Order on Sustainability: **Cullen Stephenson**

Governor Gary Locke proposed to issue an Executive Order focused on State purchasing practices. The Order would promote sustainability principles as they apply to state agencies' supplies purchases and service contracts. External groups, with high-profile leadership, are being recruited to move their organizations toward sustainable practices in the commercial sector.

11:11 Pierce County's Anti-Dumping Campaign: **Steve Wamback**

An eleven-minute video titled "Pierce County Responds" showed how the county centralized its complaints processing—receiving complaints and tracking the county's response—while building functional collaborations among multiple agencies to conduct cleanup/compel enforcement/teach prevention. The county publishes a "Dirty Dozen" list of the most offending properties; when one is brought into compliance, the site is removed from the list and another is added to the active list. The County encourages its residents to phone in tips about illegal dumpsites or about elderly or infirm people living in dangerously unsanitary homes, but also receive information from social services/healthcare workers or utilities company workers. Legal authority rests on nuisance laws.

11:48 Statewide Waste Characterization Numbers: **Jay Shepard**

Jay's PowerPoint presentation showed that despite the upward trend in population growth, the per capita growth in garbage tonnage is rising at an even faster rate. *The state of the economy has the biggest influence on percentages: the ten-year projection includes business- and industry-generated waste; employment impacts are also dramatic—in Snohomish, King, and Pierce Counties the waste is 60 percent residential and 40 percent business; but in the city of Seattle, the waste tonnage is 40 percent residential and 60 percent business . . .* Data on specific waste streams all curve upward; at less than one-tenth of one percent (.07%), municipal solid waste is the smallest segment. Perhaps the SWAC and its constituents need to refocus our efforts and reallocate our resources toward: (a) improving waste-stream quality, (b) reducing our waste of energy and resources, (c) segregating materials . . . We need to balance politics, economics, and natural resources, if we are to maintain the quality of our lives.

12:42 **SWAC/Ecology Announcements/Public Comments**

Cullen – The Weyerhaeuser-Cosmopolis paper-mill explosion did not deter golfers.  
Bill – Litigation about the Thurston County Landfill was settled out-of-court.  
Deborah – Distributed a sheet titled, "Notice of Opportunity to Increase Recycling."  
Rod – Asked for a SW&FA Program budget discussion in September.

12:47 **Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,  
***Dolores Mitchell***

Attending Members/Alternates:

Bill Dean	Rob Guttridge	Rod Hansen	Dennis Hein	Pete Keller	Craig Lorch
Brad Lovaas	Jim Matsuyama	Deborah Reynolds	Bob Schille	Eddie Westmoreland	

Attending Nonmembers:

Linda Dennis	Norm LeMay	Jerry Smedes	Steve Wamback
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